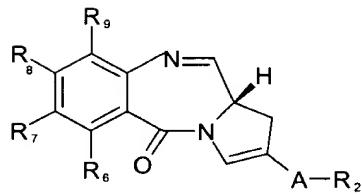


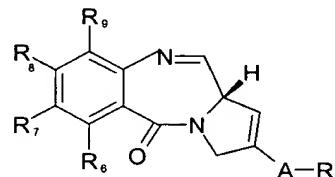
LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of the claims.

1. (Currently amended) A pyrrolobenzodiazepine compound of the formula **Ia** or **Ib**:



(Ia)



(Ib)

wherein:

(a) A is CH_2 , or a single bond;

R_2 is selected from: R, OH, OR, CO_2H , CO_2R , COH, COR, SO_2R , or CN, CH_2OR or $\text{CH}=\text{CR}^{\text{A}}\text{R}^{\text{B}}$, where R^{A} and R^{B} are independently selected from H, R^{C} , COR^{C} , CONH_2 , CONHR^{C} , CONR^{C} , cyano or phosphonate, where R^{C} is an unsubstituted alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms;

R_6 , R_7 and R_8 are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR , nitro, Me_3Sn ;

where R is a lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, whereof the alkyl group optionally contains one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, which may form part of a conjugated system, or one or more carbonyl groups or one or more ether or thioether groups, or an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms; and is optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups;

and R_8 is selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR , nitro, Me_3Sn , where R is as defined above or where the compound is a dimer with each monomer being the same or different and being of formula **Ia** or **Ib**, where the R_8 groups of the monomers form together a bridge having the formula $\text{X}-\text{R}^{\text{+}}-\text{X}$ linking the monomers, where $\text{R}^{\text{+}}$ is an

~~alkylene chain containing from 3 to 12 carbon atoms, which chain may be interrupted by one or more hetero atoms and/or aromatic rings and may contain one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, and each X is independently selected from O, S, or N; or R₇ and R₈ together form a group O-(CH₂)_p-O, where p is 1 or 2; with the proviso that for formula Ia when A is a single bond, then R₂ is not CH=CR^AR^B, where R^A and R^B are independently selected from H, R^E, COR^E, CONH₂, CONHR^E, CONR^E₂, cyano or phosphonate, where R^E is an unsubstituted alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms; or~~

(b) A is a single bond;

R₂ is an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms;

R₆, R₇ and R₉ are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro, Me₃Sn;

where R is a lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, whereof the alkyl group optionally contains one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, which may form part of a conjugated system, or one or more carbonyl groups or one or more ether or thioether groups, or an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms; and is optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups;

and R₈ is selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro, Me₃Sn, where R is as defined above, or where the compound is a dimer with each monomer being the same or different and being of formula Ia or Ib, where the R₈ groups of the monomers form together a bridge having the formula -X-R¹-X- linking the monomers, where R¹ is an alkylene chain containing from 3 to 12 carbon atoms, which chain may be interrupted by one or more hetero-atoms and/or aromatic rings and may contain one or more

carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, and each X is independently selected from O, S, or N; or R₇ and R₈ together form a group -O-(CH₂)_p-O-, where p is 1 or 2; or

(c) A is CH₂, or a single bond;

R₂ is selected from: R, OH, OR, CO₂H, CO₂R, COH, COR, SO₂R, or CN,

R₆, R₇ and R₉ are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro, Me₂Sn;

where R is a lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, whereof the alkyl group optionally contains one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, which may form part of a conjugated system, or one or more carbonyl groups or one or more ether or thioether groups, or an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms; and is optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups; and

where the compound is a dimer with each monomer being the same or different and being of formula Ia or Ib, where the R₈ groups of the monomers form together a bridge having the formula -X-R¹-X- linking the monomers, where R¹ is an alkylene chain containing from 3 to 12 carbon atoms, which chain may be interrupted by one or more hetero-atoms and/or aromatic rings and may contain one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, and each X is independently selected from O, S, or N; or R₇ and R₈ together form a group -O-(CH₂)_p-O-, where p is 1 or 2.

2. (Cancelled)
3. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein A is CH₂.
4. (Original) A compound according to claim 3, wherein R₂ is CO₂H, CO₂R, CH₂OH, or CH₂OR.
5. (Original) A compound according to claim 4, wherein R₂ is CO₂Me, CO₂^tBu, CH₂OH, or CH₂OAc.

6. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 1(c), wherein A is a single bond, and R₂ is an aryl group, or an alkyl or alkaryl group which contains at least one double bond which forms part of a conjugated system with a double bond of the pyrrolobenzodiazepine compound C-ring.

7. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R_6 , R_7 and R_9 and, unless the compound is a dimer, R_8 are independently selected from H and OR.

8. (Original) A compound according to claim 7, wherein R₆, R₇ and R₉ and, unless the compound is a dimer, R₈ are independently selected from H, OMe and OCH₂Ph.

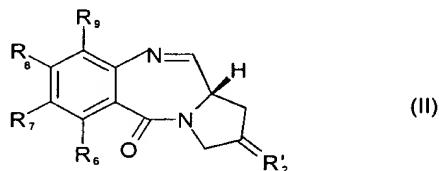
9. (Original) A compound according to claim 7, wherein R₇ and, unless the compound is a dimer, R₈ are OR, and R₆ and R₉ are H.

10. (Original) A compound according to claim 9, wherein R₇ and, unless the compound is a dimer, R₈ are independently either OMe or OCH₂Ph.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 which is a dimer, wherein the dimer bridge is of the formula $-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2)_q-\text{O}-$, where q is from 3 to 12.

13. (Previously presented) A compound of formula **II**:



wherein:

R_2 is 0;

R_6 , R_7 and R_9 are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro, Me_3Sn ;

where R is a lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, whereof the alkyl group optionally contains one or more carbon-carbon double

or triple bonds, which may form part of a conjugated system, or one or more carbonyl groups or one or more ether or thioether groups, or an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms; and is optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups;

and where the compound is a dimer with each monomer being the same or different and being of formula **II**, where the R₈ groups of the monomers form together a bridge having the formula -X-R¹-X- linking the monomers, where R¹ is an alkylene chain containing from 3 to 12 carbon atoms, which chain may be interrupted by one or more hetero-atoms and/or aromatic rings and may contain one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, and each X is independently selected from O, S, or N.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 13, wherein R₆, R₇ and R₉ are independently selected from H, OR or a halogen atom.

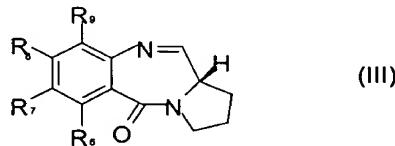
16. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 15, wherein R₆, R₇ and R₉ are independently selected from H, OMe, OCH₂Ph, and I.

17. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 15, wherein R₇ is OR or a halogen and R₆ and R₉ are H.

18. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 17, wherein R₇ is selected from OMe, OCH₂Ph or I.

19. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 13, wherein the dimer bridge is of the formula -O-(CH₂)_q-O-, where q is from 3 to 12.

20. (Previously presented) A compound of the formula **III**:



wherein:

R₆, R₇ and R₉ are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro,

Me₃Sn;

where R is a lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, whereof the alkyl group optionally contains one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, which may form part of a conjugated system, or one or more carbonyl groups, or one or more ether or thioether groups, or an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms; and is optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups;

and R₈ is amino.

21. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 20, wherein only one of R₆, R₇ and R₉ is H.

22. to 24. (Cancelled)

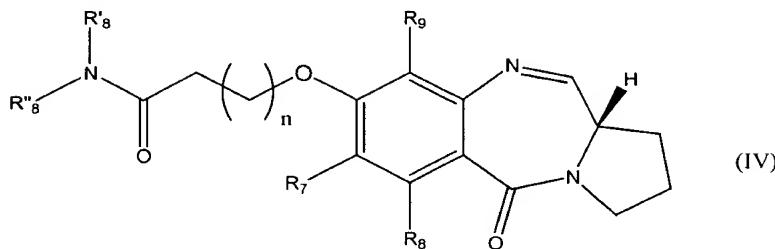
25. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 20, wherein at least one of R₆, R₇ and R₉ is an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, which is optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups.

26. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 25, wherein at least one of R₆, R₇ and R₉, is a phenyl group, optionally substituted by one or more nitro groups.

27. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 26, wherein at least one of R₆, R₇ and R₉, is selected from: Ph, m-NO₂-Ph and p-NO₂-Ph.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously presented) A compound of formula IV:



wherein:

R₆, R₇ and R₉ are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro, Me₃Sn;

where R is a lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, whereof the alkyl group optionally contains one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, which may form part of a conjugated system, or one or more carbonyl groups, or one or more ether or thioether groups, or an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms; and is optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups;

R_{8'} and R_{8''} are either independently selected from H, R or together form a cyclic amine; and n is from 1 to 7.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 29, wherein R₆ and R₉ are selected from H and OR.

33. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 32, wherein R₆ and R₉ are selected from OMe, OEt and OBN.

34. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 32, wherein n is 1 to 3.

35. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, claim 13, claim 20 or claim 29 wherein R is selected from a lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an

aralkyl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, or an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups.

36. (Original) A compound according to claim 35, wherein R is selected from a lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups.

37. (Original) A compound according to claim 36, wherein R is an unsubstituted straight or branched chain alkyl having 1 to 10 carbon atoms.

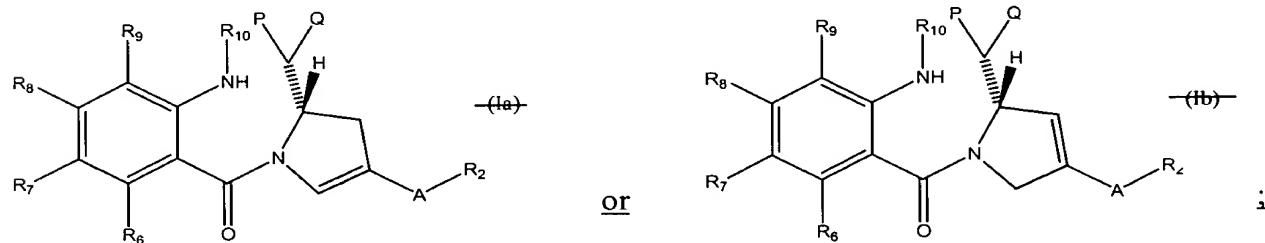
38. (Previously presented) A method of treating cancer comprising administering an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 or claim 50 to a patient in need of such treatment wherein the cancer is selected from lung cancer, colon cancer, CNS cancer, melanoma, renal cancer, breast cancer and ovarian cancer.

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Previously presented) A method of treating cancer comprising administering an effective amount of a compound according to claim 29 to a patient in need of such treatment wherein the cancer is selected from lung cancer, colon cancer, CNS cancer, melanoma, renal cancer and ovarian cancer.

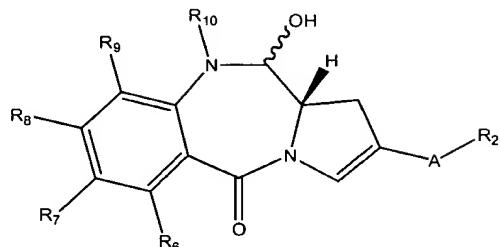
41. (Cancelled)

42. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a compound according to claim 1 comprising cyclizing a compound of formula **Ia** or **Ib**

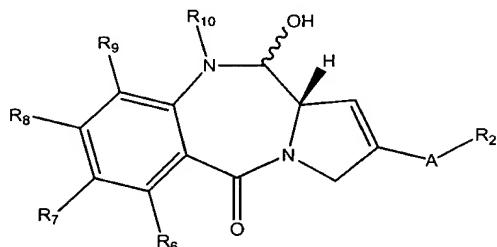


wherein A, R₂, R₆, R₇, R₈ and R₉ are as defined in claim 1, R₁₀ is a nitrogen protecting group and CPQ is a masked aldehyde;

to a compound of formula



or



wherein A, R₂, R₆, R₇, R₈, R₉ and R₁₀ are as defined above and converting the above compound to a compound according to claim 1.

43. to 45. (Cancelled)

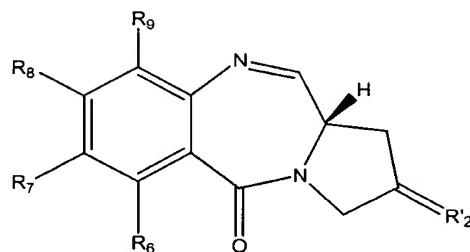
46. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

47. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a compound according to claim 13 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

48. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a compound according to claim 20 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

49. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a compound according to claim 29 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

50. (Previously presented) A compound of formula **II**:



wherein:

R'2 is CH2;

R6, R7 and R9 are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro, Me3Sn;

where R is lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, whereof the alkyl group optionally contains one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, which may form part of a conjugated system, or an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms; and is optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups, and optionally containing one or more carbonyl groups or one or more ether or thioether groups;

and R8 is selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro, Me3Sn, where R is as defined above or the compound is a dimer with each monomer being the same or different and being of formula **II**, where the R8 groups of the monomers form together a bridge having the formula -X-R¹-X- linking the monomers, where R¹ is an alkylene chain containing from 3 to 12 carbon atoms, which chain may be interrupted by one or more hetero-atoms and/or aromatic rings and may contain one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, and each X is independently selected from O, S, or N.

51. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 50, wherein R6, R7 and R9 and, unless the compound is a dimer, R8 are independently selected from H, OR or a halogen atom.

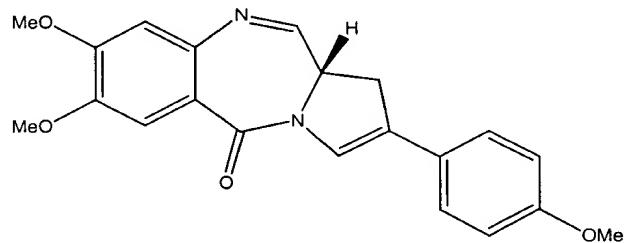
52. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 51, wherein R_6 , R_7 and R_9 and, unless the compound is a dimer, R_8 are independently selected from H, OMe, OCH_2Ph , and I.

53. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 51, wherein R₇ and, unless the compound is a dimer, R₈ are independently OR or a halogen atom and R₆ and R₉ are H.

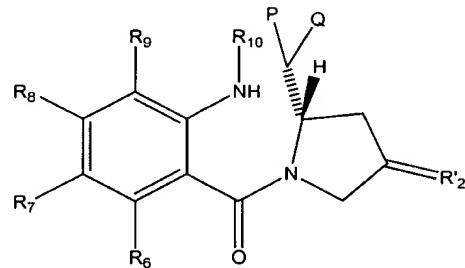
54. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 53, wherein R₇ and, unless the compound is a dimer, R₈ are independently selected from OMe, OCH₂Ph or I.

55. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 50 which is a dimer, wherein the dimer bridge is of the formula $-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2)_q-\text{O}-$, where q is from 3 to 12.

56. (Currently amended) A compound selected from the group consisting of:

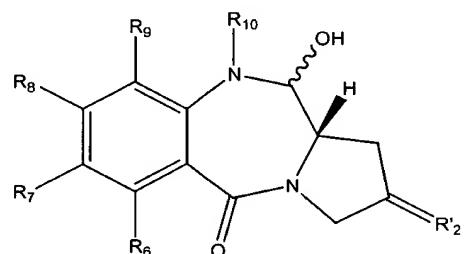


57. (Previously presented) A process for preparing a compound according to claim 13 comprising cyclizing a compound of formula



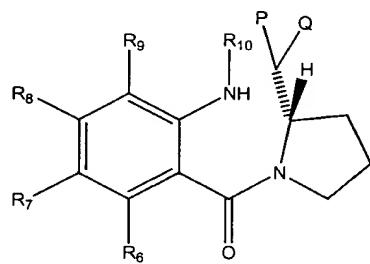
wherein R'2, R6, R7, R8 and R9 are as defined in claim 13, R10 is a nitrogen protecting group and CPQ is a masked aldehyde;

to a compound of formula



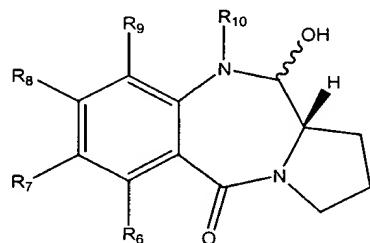
wherein R'2, R6, R7, R8, R9 and R10 are as defined above, and converting the above compound to a compound according to claim 13.

58. (Previously presented) A process for preparing a compound according to claim 20 comprising cyclizing a compound of formula



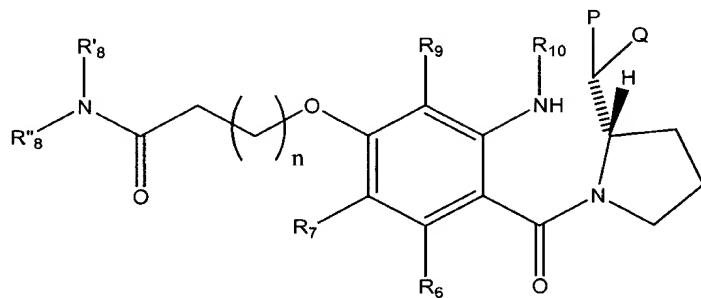
wherein R₆, R₇, R₈, and R₉ are as defined in claim 20, R₁₀ is a nitrogen protecting group and CPQ is a masked aldehyde;

to a compound of formula



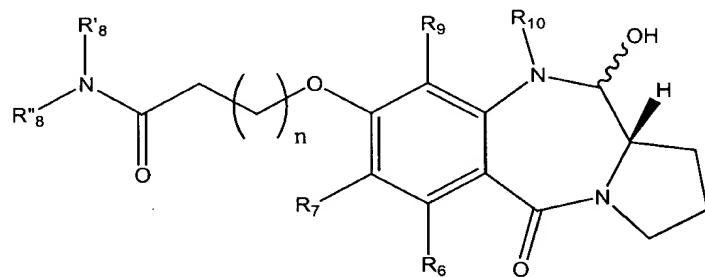
wherein R₆, R₇, R₈, R₉ and R₁₀ are as defined above, and converting the above compound to a compound according to claim 20.

59. (Previously presented) A process for preparing a compound according to claim 29 comprising cyclizing a compound of formula



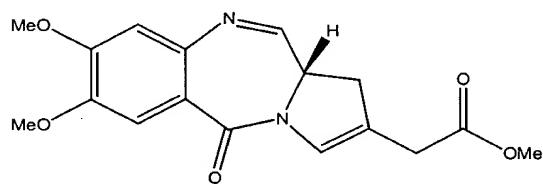
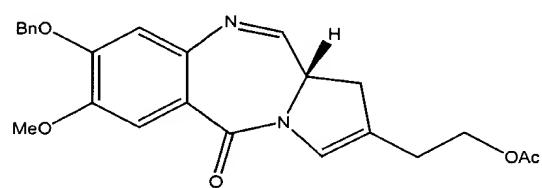
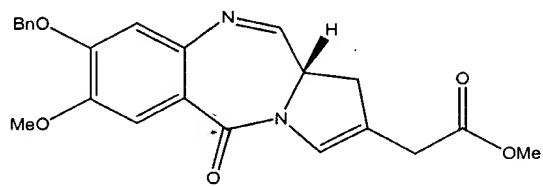
wherein R₆, R₇, R₈', R₈'', and R₉ are as defined in claim 29, R₁₀ is a nitrogen protecting group and CPQ is a masked aldehyde;

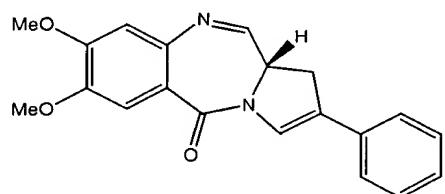
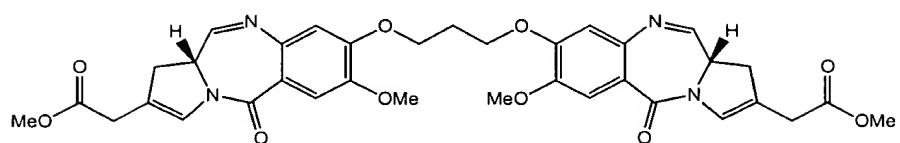
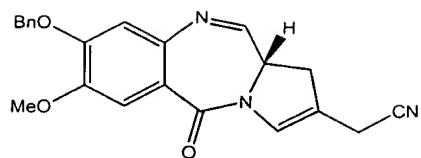
to a compound of formula



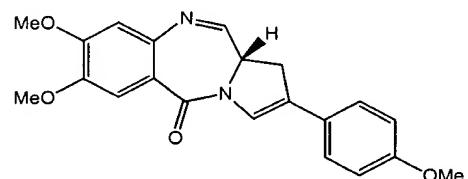
wherein R₆, R₇, R₈', R₈'', R₉ and R₁₀ are as defined above, and converting the above compound to a compound according to claim 29.

60. (Previously presented) A method of treating cancer comprising administering an effective amount of a compound wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of





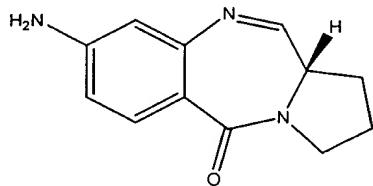
and



to a patient in need of such treatment and wherein the cancer is selected from lung cancer, colon cancer, CNS cancer, melanoma, renal cancer, breast cancer and ovarian cancer.

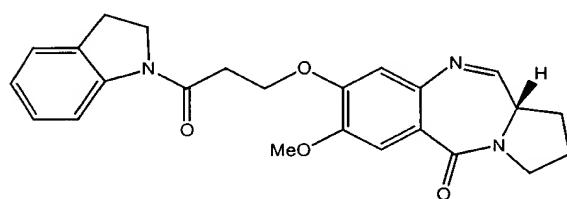
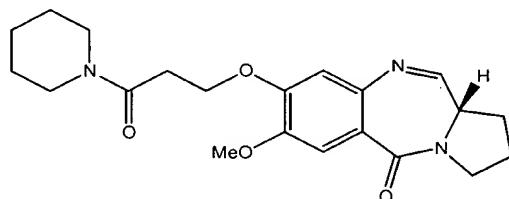
61. (Cancelled)

62. (Previously presented) A method of treating cancer comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the formula

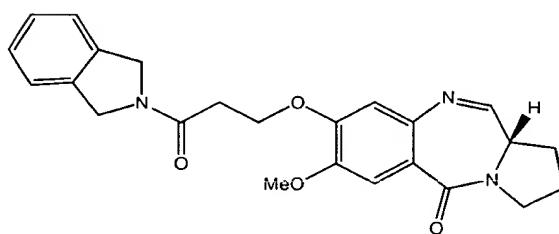


to a patient in need of such treatment wherein the cancer is selected from lung cancer, colon cancer, CNS cancer, melanoma, renal cancer, and breast cancer.

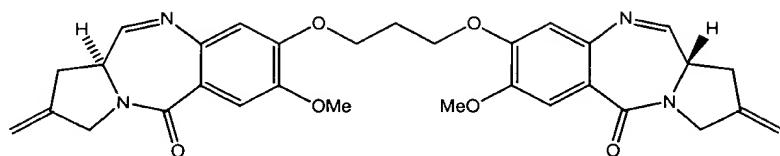
63. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of



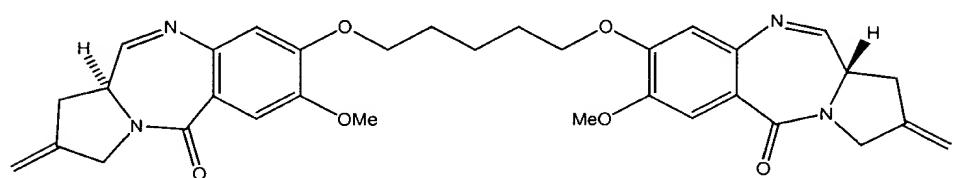
and



64. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of



and



65. (Previously presented) A method of treating cancer comprising administering an effective amount of a compound according to claim 20 to a patient in need of such a treatment wherein the cancer is selected from lung cancer, colon cancer, CNS cancer, melanoma, renal cancer and breast cancer.